assessment/short levy of Central Excise duties and other Central taxes during 1994-95;

(b) whether the Government enquired into these losses;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(d) the remedial measures taken to check such revenue loss; and

(e) the number of persons arrested in the country particularly in Delhi for evading the excise duty during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Drawback Claims of CBEC

1952. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working group of Central Board of Excise and Customs has submitted its recommendations to ensure speedy settlement of drawback claims;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Working Groups' Report on Disbursement of Drawback Claims has been received recently. The Groups' major recommendations include, return to [re-1986 procedure for processing of Drawback claims by doing away with the necessity of filling separate claims and treating the drawback Shipping Bills themselves as claims for drawback; reduction in drawal of samples for test; augmentation of infrasturcture of Custom House laboratories; computerisation of export and drawback procedures; changes in procedure for payment of drawback amounts and adoption of modern modes of communication.

All these recommendations are under active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Refinancing of Rural Banks

1953. SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Housing Bank has been providing refinancing facility to the rural banks of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for construction and repair of houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount provided during each of the last two years in that regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that it is operating a scheme of subscription to Special Rural Housing Debentures (SRHDs) through Agricultural Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) for rural housing. NHB has been providing refinance facility to the ARDB of Uttar Pradesh in the form of subscriptions to SRHDs floated by them. NHB has reported that till date, it has subscribed an amount of Rs. 9.78 crores to ARDB of Uttar Pradesh, besides subscription to adhoc bonds of Rs. 10 crores for earthquake relief in Uttar Kashi during the year 1991-92. Further, a limit of Rs. 2 crores has been allocated to ARDB of Uttar Pradesh.

NHB has stated that no application has been received from Madhya Pradesh upto now.

Supply of Coal to Power Plants in Delhi

1954. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding irregular and poor quality of coal being supplied to the power plants in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure regular supply of quality coal to the power plants of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c). The total despatches of coal to power plants in Delhi for the period April-June, 1996 were 12.04 lakh tonnes (provisional) as against a despatch of 13.08 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year. The despatches to power houses in Delhi had to be regulated owing to failure of power stations to make payments against current supplies of coal.

Thermal power plants, by and large, have been supplied adequate quantity and agreed quality of coal for which their boilers are designed. Generally the complaints regarding the quality of coal being supplied to the power houses relate to the presence of extraneous material in coal as also supply of over-sized coal. These complaints are examined on merit of each case and corrective action is taken to redress the grievances of the consumers.

In order to bring down the quality complaints, steps like installation of feeder breakers, segregation of stones at the time of loading of coal, better supervision and